

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 02866 091616Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0045

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2866

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SV, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN CELEBRATION OF SVALBARD TREATY

REF: AMBASSADOR BYRNE-ASST. SEC. HARTMAN TELECON OF JUNE 26

1. NORWEGIANS HAVE JUST INFORMED US THEY HAVE DECIDED TO CHANGE THEIR INVITATIONS TO COMMEMORATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF SVALBARD TREATY ON AUGUST 14. INSTEAD OF INVITING TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF TREATY SIGNING COUNTRIES PLUS USSR, AS AMBASSADOR BYRNE MENTIONED TO YOU, THEY HAVE NOW DECIDED TO INVITE ONLY THE DIPLOMATIC HEADS OF MISSION OF THE TREATY SIGNATORIES AND ADHERENTS RESIDENT IN OSLO TO TAKE PART IN THE CEREMONY IN LONGYEARBYEN ON WEST SPITSBERGEN.

2. NORWEGIANS WERE APOLOGETIC FOR CHANGE, WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND EXPLAINED WAS DONE TO PERMIT MORE COUNTRIES TO ATTEND AND TO AVOID DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN SIGNATORY COUNTRIES AND ADHERENTS, PARTICULARLY THE USSR AND GERMANY. THE DECISION TO INVITE OSLO BASED AMBASSADORS WAS MADE TO KEEP LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION EQUAL AND TO PREVENT SOVIETS FROM SENDING UNCOMFORTABLY HIGH RANKING REPRESENTATIVES.

3. NORWEGIANS WILL SEND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION INCLUDING KING
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PAGE 02 OSLO 02866 091616Z

OLAV, STORTING PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, JUSTICE

AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. DURING
FESTIVITIES ON SVALBARD NORWEGIAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER WILL
OPEN OFFICIALLY NEW AIRPORT AT LONGYEARBYEN.

4. AMBASSADOR BYRNE PLANS TO REPRESENT THE US.
BUCHANAN

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